



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

10-11-7 A 9 11

OCT 30 2008

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding. An identical letter has been sent to each cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Aviation and International Affairs

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

September 29, 2008

The Honorable Mary E. Peters  
 Secretary of Transportation  
 United States Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
 Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing in support of American Airlines' application for antitrust immunity for its One World International aviation alliance with its partners British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Royal Jordanian Airlines. One World would be the third immunized alliance joining SkyTeam (Delta, Northwest, Air France and KLM) and the Star Alliance (United, USAirways, Continental, Lufthansa, Singapore and ANA). Immunity would mean the five One World airlines will continue to operate as separate legal entities with their own fleets, employees and brands, but would be able to cooperate more closely in the aviation market place, providing the citizens of New Mexico with more domestic choices and better international connections, enhanced frequent flyer programs, and most importantly more competition for consumers.

In today's global economy, the long-term success of an air carrier is at least partially dependent upon strong relationships, a global reach, and the ability to coordinate, schedule and market a seamless global network. All of this is attainable when airlines in an alliance are able to cooperate more closely.

We urge you to review and approve promptly American Airlines' application for antitrust immunity to bring more competition to the aviation market place. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

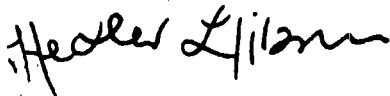
Sincerely,



Pete V. Domenici  
 United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman  
 United States Senator



Heather A. Wilson  
 Member of Congress



Tom Udall  
 Member of Congress



Steve Pearce  
 Member of Congress